

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Summary

By this Amendment, claims 23, 27 and 28 have been revised, and claim 25 has been cancelled.

Claims 23-25 and 27-41 remain pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. ¶102

Claims 23-41 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶102 as being unpatentable over each of the cited US6274537, US20010049346, US6398874, and US6508887 references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections with respect to the now-pending claims.

By this Amendment, independent claim 23 has been revised to recite the swelling agent as being a hydroxylamine salt. Thus, each of the now-pending claims recited a method using a composition which includes the combination of alkoxy N-hydroxyalkyl alkanamide and a hydroxylamine salt. The cited references do not teach or suggest such a composition.

That is, each of the references cited by the Examiner simply describes hydroxylamine as being contained in the conventional EKC-245 composition. The cited references do not describe or suggest the use of hydroxylamine in combination with alkoxy N-hydroxyalkyl alkanamide.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 23-25 and 27-41 are not anticipated by the cited references.

Double Patenting

Claims 23-41 were variously rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over each of the cited US7037852, US6398874, and US6508887 references.

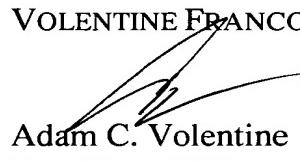
Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the same reasons as stated above in connection with the rejections under 35 U.S.C. ¶102. That is, the claims of the cited references do not teach or suggest the combination of alkoxy N-hydroxyalkyl alkanamide and a hydroxylamine salt as recited in the present claims.

Conclusion

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims 23-25 and 27-41 now pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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